

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 209860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, BH, UK, GT

SUBJECT: BRITISH USE OF DULLES AND KEY WEST

PLEASE SEEK AN APPOINTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIAL AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED PERMISSION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO REROUTE THE ROUTINE WEEKLY RAF LONDON-BELIZE SUPPLY FLIGHT THROUGH DULLES AIRPORT OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, D.C. WE UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR THE REQUESTED CHANGE IS THAT THE DULLES ROUTE PERMITS A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF AIRCRAFT CREW. (THE FLIGHT NOW HAS TO OVERNIGHT IN BERMUDA BUT WOULD MAKE ONLY A SHORT STOP AT DULLES TO CHANGE CREWS.)

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-- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GIVE PERMISSION FOR KEY WEST TO BE USED AS AN EVACUATION POINT FOR THE FOUR REMAINING HARRIER AIRCRAFT IN BELIZE IN CASE BELIZE WERE THREATENED BY A HURRICANE. KEY WEST WOULD BE ONLY ONE OF THREE CONTINGENCY REFUGE POINTS FOR THE HARRIERS; THE OTHERS ARE THE BAHAMAS AND

BERMUDA.

-- BECAUSE OF OUR CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE BRITISH,
SIMILAR TO OUR CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE GOG, WE ARE AP-
PROVING THESE REQUESTS, JUST AS WE ROUTINELY WOULD APPROVE
GUATEMALAN REQUESTS FOR HURRICANE REFUGE AND DO APPROVE
REQUESTS FOR TRANSITS. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT
THE GOG IS FULLY AWARE OF THE BACKGROUND AND NATURE OF
THESE REQUESTS.

-- PLEASE EMPHASIZE TO THE GOG THAT PERMITTING THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT TO USE U.S. FACILITIES AS DESCRIBED ABOVE
REPRESENTS NO REPEAT NO CHANGE FROM OUR NEUTRAL POSITION
ON THE ANGLO-GUATEMALAN DISPUTE OVER BELIZE. WE, OF
COURSE, CONTINUE TO FAVOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE
DISPUTE AND WE REMAIN READY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH
MEMBERS OF THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT AS THEY DESIRE.

FYI. WE ASSUME THE GOG WILL INTERJECT NO OBJECTION TO
THE U.S. ALLOWING THE BRITISH TO USE OUR FACILITIES.
HOWEVER, IF THE GOG WERE TO RAISE PROBLEMS, WE PLAN TO GO
BACK TO THE BRITISH AND TELL THEM WE ARE PREPARED TO
GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO USE DULLES AND KEY WEST,
IF THEY STILL DESIRE IT IN LIGHT OF THE GUATEMALAN
REACTION. END FYI. VANCE

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